

TIP OF THE SWORD

April 22, 2005

Incirlik Air Base, Turkey

Then



&



Now

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On the cover:

The mission and people at Incirlik have changed a great deal since the base first opened but there are always Airmen ready to take up the challenge. Troops arriving here in the 1960s (top) were not that different from troops who arrived in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2004. See related article, Page 7. (Photos courtesy of the 39th Air Base Wing Historian Office)

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COMMANDER'S COMMENTS



By Col. Michael Gardiner,
39th Air Base Wing commander

Spring Fling

Saturday is the 39th Services Squadron Spring Fling from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Arkadas Park and I encourage everyone to attend. This is a good opportunity to get to know neighbors and learn more about what goes on all over the base in a social setting. There will be activities for everyone including pony rides, games and music.

Energy conservation

As the mercury begins to rise, air conditioners work overtime to keep everyone comfortable. But as you reach for the thermostat, remember energy conservation is everyone's responsibility. Simple things like turning off the lights in rooms you are not using or changing the thermostat to a slightly higher temperature in the summer can save a lot of natural resources and money we can spend on other projects to improve the base. Everyone needs to do their part to help.

ICSC Scholarship winners

Congratulations to the following people

who received scholarships from the Incirlik Combined Spouses Club:
Graduating Seniors:
Shawn Erway, \$1,500; **Terence Young**, \$500; **Alyssia Hardy**, \$1,500; **Ashley White**, \$500; **Tina Valdez**, \$3,500
Continuing education:
Sandra Scheer, \$750; **Carole Carnley**, \$1,000; **Amy Andros**, \$1,000

Exercise safety

Working out is an important aspect of readiness and is mandatory for active-duty military personnel, but it is also important to practice good safety measures in the process. Music can be a great motivator but, when you are running on Incirlik's streets and sidewalks, remember that you cannot wear anything that keeps you from hearing or detecting vehicles, sirens, or other warning signals. Make sure you stretch before and after working out and use good safety practices both on and off duty.

Force protection

Travel is a great way to take advantage of your tour here in Turkey, and I encourage everyone to get out and see the sights. Although the vast majority of our hosts are friendly and glad to see us, there are a few who may feel otherwise. Be aware of what is going on around you, stay alert and do not let your guard down. Avoid large gatherings and demonstrations, and if you see anything that strikes you as being out of place, immediately report it to the law enforcement desk at 6-3200. Remember Incirlik Force Protection, your life depends on it.

Reminder from the Chief: Shopping off base

By Chief Master Sgt.
Raymond Allen
39th Air Base Wing

Many people may be asking their maids and gardeners where they go shopping off base. While this is not against any Incirlik policies, it is important for people to remember to be aware of their surroundings and be cautious wherever they go.

Being aware and cautious includes language barriers and lack of familiarity with a particular vendor may mean you are more likely to be taken advantage of. Things

may not always be what they seem. Incirlik does not endorse any specific vendors.

If you do business with an unfamiliar vendor off base, you should be very clear up front about what you expect to get for your money, and when.

If you have a question about a particular vendor, check with Mr. Yilmaz Ozelik at the Legal Office. He frequently deals with alley merchants and may be able to get you information on others too.

For more information call 6-6800.

Force shaping calls for leadership by example

Chief Master Sgt. Gary Coleman
USAFE Command Chief Master Sergeant

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany (USAFENS) – As we all know, the Air Force is going through a force shaping that's mandated by law. The law requires us to reduce personnel manning numbers. When it's all said and done, by stopping accessions and limiting the number of new recruits, Air Force manning will be reduced by more than 22,000 people.

Without fresh recruits coming from basic training, tasks traditionally performed by airmen basics are now resting on the shoulders of our airmen first class and senior airmen creating a ripple effect into the Noncommissioned Officer tier. This effect will dissipate over time as we put this brief recruiting freeze behind us, but will challenge us all in the short term – particularly our mid-level NCOs.

Today's NCOs are at the core of everything we do; making the Air Force "go," day



Chief Master Sgt. Gary Coleman

in and day out. Our staff and technical sergeants represent the bulk of the enlisted force structure, performing above expecta-

tion almost routinely in positions above them. They are filling key leadership billets previously only filled by Senior NCOs, and still they're the ultimate technicians. They perform highly complex technical duties, while at the same time supervising and mentoring the next generation behind them.

Force shaping calls for leadership by example, something our current crop of mid-level NCOs do best. They understand the roles and responsibilities that define them must be as flexible as possible. Through this flexibility, they can stretch beyond their normal limits and meet the next task on the horizon head on.

This temporary recruitment freeze will bring challenges of its own, even as it helps us shape a more efficient force structure. Whatever challenges it brings, I know our NCO corps is up to the task, because it has been tested time and time again and has never failed to perform. Using leadership and dedication, today's NCO continues to lead the way.

Mentorship, training essential to mission success

By Col. Dawn Wheeler
United States Air Forces Europe Inspector General

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany (AFPN) — At a fighter base back in the 1980s, we got goal days based on the number of sorties each aircraft flew every month. Known as utilization, or UTE, days, people were given the day off if the wing did well.

One day, the wing commander came to a staff meeting and told us a story of a young captain who came to see him to complain.

The captain didn't think the wing finance office should be closed on a UTE day; since finance members had nothing to do with the aircrews getting their day off, he felt it was unfair. The commander agreed to look into the matter and invited the captain to the weekly staff meeting.

During the meeting, the commander began going around the room asking questions, starting with finance. "Would you be as eager to fly if finance did not see to it that you were paid?" the wing commander asked the captain. Then, turning to me, he said, "Or if the major didn't see to it that your plane was secured where you left it, what would you fly?"

Calmly, the commander went completely around the room asking simple but penetrating questions as he mentored us that day, letting us know that it takes everyone, from the Airman on the flightline to the commander's support staff, to keep the mission going. And, it takes each of our core capabilities to accomplish that mission.

As the inspector general team travels around, I am constantly

struck by the motivation, enthusiasm and dedication of the troops. What we find lacking is training. Not the just-in-time training to get specific jobs done, to deploy, or engage in combat, but, rather, the core capabilities training to be able to perform their primary jobs to the best of their ability.

A wing commander recently told me that taking the time to get back to basics was good for the unit. He said the troops walked taller and approached life with more confidence than he had seen in a long time.

I have always concurred with the theory when you "sweat more in peace, you bleed less in war," and we accomplish that by providing quality in-depth training and proper equipment to our troops.

While much of what we do is determined by the day-to-day operations tempo, we need to take time out periodically to get back to basics.

Troops, drag a chief out for a cup of coffee and pick his or her brain about something you remember from technical school but never actually performed.

Chiefs and senior non-commissioned officers, have a "troop" call at the end of a busy week and talk to your people about some perhaps-forgotten technical aspect of your job. Small informal get-togethers are a perfect time to impart information long unused, brainstorm new initiatives and recall and dissect recent incidents that could have gone better with a bit more preplanning.

Our Airmen are without a doubt the world's finest, and we owe them the mentorship and training needed to hone their skills.

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— Col. Dawn Wheeler
U.S. Air Forces Europe
Inspector General

Leadership in action: Chief finds it hard to 'not lead'

By Chief Master Sgt. Jeff Akers
39th Medical Squadron

If I were to ask you what leadership meant to you, what would be your answer? I'm sure there would be varying responses but many would dig back in their brain to give the professional military education definition. You know, "the art of influencing and directing people to accomplish the mission?" That might be the textbook definition but I say leadership can best be explained through day-to-day actions as compared to commonly used phrases about leadership.

I want to begin by paraphrasing a comment from Gen. Foglesong on leadership during a recent visit to Incirlik. He said "leadership isn't a personality contest" and he's right.

We have been entrusted to protect the interests of the United States. This means potentially putting our military in harms way all over the world. Leaders have to be ready to make decisions quickly and some may not be to everyone's liking. If I only had a dime for every time I was told to "shut up and color". Each one of us is a leader in one arena or another. It's up to each of us to determine what type of leader we're going to be.

We've all heard "leadership begins at the top." Okay, but who is the "top?" For a chief master sergeant, it could be a senior NCO peer group, a command chief or the wing commander. What about the young Airman who just arrived here from technical training school? It could be their sponsor. To an airman 1st class or senior airman, it could be the newly promoted staff sergeant who just became their supervisor. In other words, the "top" is usually closer in the chain-of-command.

Leadership is also viewed by the actions (or inactions) of people. A great example is the latest string of alcohol related incidents we've had here at Incirlik. How many could have been prevented had someone in the group said "you've had enough to drink, let me take you home." No rank is required to be a leader here. Just looking out for your Wingman is all it takes.

I know some of you are saying "that's my boss, I'll get in trouble!" Or "they're my

friend and they'll be upset with me." Then call your commander, chief or first sergeant. There's always someone out there to help, and besides real friends will see what you did and respect your friendship even more.

I've always felt leadership is a direct reflection on someone's integrity. Remember the cornerstone of integrity "doing the right thing, even when nobody is looking."

Several weeks ago I was walking to the food court for lunch when I saw an Airman get out of a vehicle and put on his uniform blouse. I could've kept on walking and not said anything but that wouldn't have been the right thing to do. I explained to them what was wrong and went on to lunch. When I came back into my squadron about an hour later, one of the civilians came up to me and thanked me for stopping and correcting the Airman. My point? People may be watching you even though you think nobody is looking.

Leadership is sometimes referenced as "practicing what you preach." Ever known someone in a leadership position who tells those they supervise one thing and then do the total opposite? I have, the most common one for me has been recognition programs.

I can't tell you the number of times I've heard a supervisor tell their subordinates they need to go up before a wing board but not do it themselves because "I'll never win!" It has nothing to do with winning, it's leading by example. If someone acts like this, not only do they lack good leadership skills, they're hypocrites.

Finally, great leaders are out there with their people. When was the last time you saw somebody tell someone else to do Combat Proud but refused to help because of the weather? I've always believed no job is too demeaning for me and think people will respect you more if you're out there helping them do the "not so glorious" jobs.

Leadership is the bridge connecting the people under your charge to the mission needing to be accomplished. A bridge is only as good as the solid foundation it rests on. Are you the foundation for great leadership or the weak suspension trying to support the bridge which over time will cause it to crumble? The choice is yours.

YOUR TURN

What do you do to make Incirlik a better place to live and work?

"Right now I'm focusing on improving things on the home front, working with my children to make them better students and athletes."

— **Maj. Jeff Bell**, 39th Comptroller Squadron



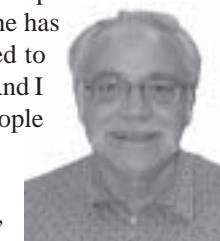
"I coach for coach-pitch baseball and teach Catholic Sunday School."

— **Carole Carnley**, Incirlik family member



"With my job, I help make sure everyone has the space they need to work and live in. And I try to convince people to conserve energy."

— **Jerry Arnold**, 39th Civil Engineer Squadron



"As a defense paralegal for the Area Defense Council, I'm essentially everyone's wingman. I help them out when they're going through any type of administrative issues."

— **Staff Sgt. Angela Brown**, Area Defense Council



"I get involved in the community by volunteering my time to help shape young minds at the school."

— **Staff Sgt. Eric Devese**, 39th Medical Squadron



Have a good idea for a story in the *Tip of the Sword*? Send an e-mail to tip.sword@incirlik.af.mil.

To submit a question for "Your Turn," call 6-6060 or e-mail tip.sword@incirlik.af.mil

Volunteer week recognizes hidden heroes

By Senior Airman Jessica Switzer
39th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

This week the United States celebrated National Volunteer Week. Incirlik joined in this celebration by recognizing volunteers with a recognition banquet this afternoon.

The U.S. Air Forces in Europe Hidden Heroes program, developed in 2003, recognizes volunteers and the difference they make at individual bases and in the command.

"We call them hidden heroes because most of these people don't want any notoriety, they don't do it for any other reason than because it's a good thing to do – helping somebody makes them feel good about themselves," said Gen. Robert Foglesong, USAFE commander, in a news release about the program. "It's one of my favorite programs. It's an opportunity to recognize people who organize and contribute to help better lives, voluntarily, across the spectrum for others."

Incirlik reports monthly statistics on the number of volunteers and the amount of time they are serving.

"The Incirlik Volunteer-Hidden Heroes Working Group recognizes that individuals volunteer for a myriad of reasons that have nothing to do with counting hours," said Airman 1st Class Lynette Ras, 39th Mission Support Squadron Hidden Heroes representative. "As a matter of base pride we ask people to report their activities and hours through their squadron volunteer representative so we are reporting a true reflection of volunteerism at Incirlik."

National volunteer week began in 1974 when President Richard Nixon signed an executive order establishing the week as an annual celebration of volunteering. The annual celebration takes place during the third full week of April, unless Easter or Passover falls during that week then the week is moved to the fourth week of April.

Every year the president signs a proclamation promoting National Volunteer Week.

"During National Volunteer Week, we thank those who volunteer to serve a cause greater than self and I commend the more than 200,000

Volunteer Opportunities

There are a number of volunteer opportunities around Incirlik for more information and placement procedures, call Julie Halstead, Hidden Heroes coordinator, at the Family Support Center at 6-6755. Here are a few of the opportunities around Incirlik:

Country Plains Riding Stables (point of contact: Helen Wilmott, 6-2485)

Chapel Assistant (POC: Chapel at 6-6441)

Crossroads Café (POC: Chaplain (Capt.) Dallas Little at 6-6441)

Department of Defense Dependent Schools (POC: Vernon Reddick at 6-3043)

Historians Office (POC: Staff Sgt. Regina Brown at 6-6659)

Library (POC: Sue Arvin at 6-6759)

Post Office (POC: Master Sgt. Madea Yagmur at 6-6301)

Stray Animal Facility (POC: Jon Tabije at 6-6452)

Thrift Shop (POC: Laura Flynn at 6-5378)

Vet Clinic (POC: Staff Sgt. Manuel Taveras at 6-3119)

Youth Center (POC: Wiyada Lee at 6-6670)

Americans who have earned the Volunteer Service Award," said President George W. Bush in the 2005 proclamation. "By giving back to our communities, we can change American for the better one heart and one soul at a time."

There are a number of ways for people to volunteer their time and resources to the Incirlik community.

"There are always organizations that need volunteers, the chapel, post office and school, those types of things," said Julie Halstead, Incirlik Hidden Heroes coordinator. "Every time you turn around there are opportunities."

Aircraft lighter ban also applies to servicemembers

By Gerry Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Anyone — including servicemembers — carrying lighters will be required to surrender them at U.S. airport security checkpoints before boarding aircraft under a new federal law that became effective April 14, Transportation Security Administration officials said.

The new law also applies to military and civilian passengers on commercially chartered U.S. military overseas flights, said Army Lt. Col. Scott Ross, a spokesman with U.S. Transportation Command at Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

Because of al-Qaida efforts to create improvised explosive devices, "prohibiting

lighters onboard aircraft and in the sterile areas of airports will reduce current security vulnerabilities and add another layer of defense," a TSA document stated.

President Bush signed the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 on Dec. 17, 2004. The act mandates that butane lighters be added to the list of items prohibited from being carried aboard aircraft arriving or departing at U.S. commercial airports.

The new law applies to "anything that produces a flame," including Zippo brand and other lighters, said TSA spokesman Chris Jolma. However, aircraft passengers may still carry up to four books of matches.

The law also bans lighters from being placed in carry-on luggage or cargo baggage, according to the TSA.

"Wherever there's a TSA (security)

checkpoint, we're responsible for enforcing the law," Mr. Jolma said. "Folks should definitely inspect their baggage before going to the airport, just to avoid the hassle."

On Dec. 22, 2001, passengers aboard American Airlines Flight 63 en route from Paris to Miami stopped British citizen Richard Reid from lighting a fuse attached to an explosive hidden inside his sneakers.

The self-confessed al-Qaida sympathizer was later convicted in a U.S. federal court of trying to blow up the plane. He is now serving a life sentence.

Mr. Jolma said the failed attempt to bring down Flight 63 alerted U.S. authorities of the need to tighten up airline security. And, he said, global terrorists continue to look for "innovative means" to bring down aircraft.

Officials announce TSP open season

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — Civilian and military employees can sign up for, or change, their Thrift Savings Plan contribution amounts during the “open season” through June 30.

“TSP is a long-term retirement savings plan, which everyone should consider,” said Jackie Holland, task manager at the Air Force Personnel Contact Center here. “It’s a great supplement to military and civilian retirement plans.

“It’s also important to note that TSP is not limited to investing in stocks,” Ms. Holland said. “People can choose safer government securities as well.”

This open season applies only to regular TSP contributions. It does not include TSP catch-up contributions, as they are not tied to open seasons, said Janet Thomas, of Air Force Personnel Center’s civilian benefits and entitlements service team.

TSP offers investors the chance for lower taxes each year they contribute while not having to pay taxes on earnings until they reach retirement.

“Eligible employees can take out loans and make in-service withdrawals from their TSP accounts,” Ms. Thomas said. “And you can keep your account, even if you leave military or federal civilian service.”

Investment money is deposited directly from each paycheck “so you never have to think about it,” Ms. Holland said. “That makes it easy to ‘pay yourself first’ while only investing what you deem appropriate.”

The five TSP funds are: the Government Securities Investment (G) Fund; the Common Stock Index Investment (C) Fund; the Fixed Income Index Investment (F) Fund; the Small Capitalization Stock Index Investment (S) Fund; and the International Stock Index Investment (I) Fund.

TSP officials said they also hope to make “Lifecycle” funds available mid-2005. Lifecycle funds are “target asset allocation portfolios” that will hold a mix of the five funds currently available. The mix of funds is chosen based on the date the employee expects to need money for retirement. More information is available online at www.tsp.gov/curinfo/specint/LFC-Qs&As.html.

“As with any individual retirement account, the sooner you begin contributing, the better,” Ms. Thomas said.

Contribution elections and/or changes made between April 15 and June 11 will take effect June 12, for servicemembers and civilians. Changes made on or after June 12 will become effective at the beginning of the pay period

following the one in which the election is made for civilians and the following month for military.

Public Law 108-469, signed into law Dec. 21, will eliminate TSP open seasons. The Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board is implementing this law July 1. As a result, beginning July 1, civilian employees and servicemembers may start, change, stop or resume contributions at any time. For civilians, the elections will be effective at the beginning of the pay period following the one in which submitted, and for military members elections will be effective the following month.

Some of the specifics of the program include:

Military

- ♦ Servicemembers can contribute as much as 10 percent of their base pay. Airmen also have the ability to invest all or part of their bonuses or special pay.

- ♦ Those serving in tax-free combat zones are allowed up to \$42,000 in annual contributions.

- ♦ Airmen can enroll through the Defense Finance and Accounting Service Web site at www.dfas.mil/emss/. They can also enroll by filling out a form TSP-U-1 at the military personnel flight, finance office and family support center.

Civilian

Contribution limits are based on which retirement system an employee has. For the current open season, the following contribution rates apply:

- ♦ Federal Employees’ Retirement System employees may contribute as much as 15 percent of basic pay each pay period.

- ♦ Employees covered by the Civil Service Retirement System may contribute as much as 10 percent of basic pay, but do not receive any agency contributions.

- ♦ Beginning in December, there will no longer be percentage limits on how much FERS and CSRS employees may contribute each year. Contributions will be restricted only by the Internal Revenue Code’s annual limit, which is \$15,000 for 2006.

- ♦ Specific information is available for civilian employees from the Thrift Savings Plan Web site and the BEST home page at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST/menu.htm.

More information about the Thrift Savings Plan can be found in the booklet “Summary of the Thrift Savings Plan” on the TSP home page under civilian or uniformed services TSP Forms and Publications.

IN THE NEWS

Power outages

There is a power outage from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. May 2 for buildings 1070, 1072, 1075, 1076, 1077, 1080, 1081, 1082, 1064 and 6051.

There is a power outage from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. May 4 for building 1066.

There is a power outage from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. May 6 for buildings 558, 564, 570, 590 and 590A.

For more information, call Sabahattin Celik at 6-8020 or 6-6570

New hours

New hours for the 39th Civil Engineer Squadron Self Help Store are 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays. For more information, call Joseph Smalls at 6-6846.

Storknesting

Labor and delivery services are not available at Incirlik. Women who are pregnant or planning to become pregnant can call the 39th Medical Squadron Women’s Health Clinic to discuss storknesting at 6-6787.

Classes for parents-to-be

A mandatory orientation class for all new mothers and their spouses is from 8 11 a.m. every second Wednesday at the hospital. The Birthing Class parts I and II are also encouraged for all pregnant mothers (in their third trimester) and their spouses. Classes are from 4:30 to 5 p.m. in the hospital library conference room. For more information, call the women’s health clinic at 6-6787.

Parenting class

The “parenting with love and logic” begins Thursday and is Thursdays until May 12. The class is 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the elementary school. To sign up or for more information, call the Family Support Center at 6-6755.

Pets in lodging

There is limited space available in lodging for pets. Dogs and cats are the only animals allowed and reservations are required. An additional \$10 per night pet fee is charged to the room. For more information, call 6-9357.

Base to host anniversary events in June

By 1st Lt. S.J.B. Bryant

39th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

The year is 1955. The Scrabble board game debuts, Winston Churchill resigns as Prime Minister of Britain, Disneyland opens in California, the Warsaw Pact is signed, James Dean dies in a car wreck, Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat on an Alabama bus, the first Guinness Book of World Records is released and the United States Air Force opened what would soon be called Incirlik Air Base, Turkey.

Actually, the history of the base began four years earlier when the U.S. Engineering Group began construction of a runway in the spring of 1951. The Air Force originally wanted to use the base as an emergency staging and recovery site for medium and heavy bombers and the Turkish General Staff and U.S. Air Force signed a joint use agreement for it in 1954. On Feb. 21, 1955, the base (originally named Adana Air Base) sported the 7216th Air Base Squadron as host unit, and changed the way the U.S. Air Force's presence in Europe and Asia was viewed by other countries.

Many stationed at Incirlik today were not even a glimmer in their mother's eye in 1955. But the base caught the eye of other countries such as the Soviet Union. According to historical reports found online at www.incirlik.af.mil, Incirlik was instrumental in responding to crises in the Middle East. In fact, Project 119L, a US Air Force meteorological balloon launching activity, conducted special operations here in 1955. Following balloon operations, pilots began flying U-2 reconnaissance missions as part of Operation Overflight.

In 1958, the base was renamed "Incirlik" (meaning fig orchard) — the same year the Lebanon crisis occurred prompting the United States to order Tactical Air Command Composite Strike Force Bravo to deploy from America to Incirlik.

Throughout events such as the invasion of Cyprus, the stand-up of NATO units and arms embargoes between Turkey and America, Incirlik has been a mainstay in Adana. The base was a key contributor in the Gulf War era serving as a hub for operations such as Operations Quick Transit, Provide Comfort and Northern Watch. Later it supported Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom.

Today, Incirlik celebrates 50 years of Turkish/American partnership during an array of events June 11-18. The three major events include a memorial dedication June 16, a base-wide day in the park June 17 and a senior leader formal dinner June 18.

The dedication will begin at 9 a.m. with troop formations and national anthems performed by both Turkish and American troops. Col. Michael Gardiner, 39th Air Base Wing commander, and Gen. H. Levent Turkmen, 10th Tanker Base commander, will give speeches commemorating the celebration. To conclude the event, a marble bench will be placed on-base in remembrance of Incirlik's heritage and contributions.

"The day at the park should be a great time for everyone — Turkish or American," said Senior Master Sgt. Don Byars, Incirlik's 50th Anniversary Planning Committee co-chair. "We will open Arkadas Park to all base people and will host a variety of sports and activities."

Beginning at 7 a.m., there will be swimming, soccer, softball, volleyball and basketball competitions as well as a team run for anyone who wants to join. Afterward, free lunch will be available — barbecue chicken, beans, potato salad, bread water and soda. But because of the extreme heat of Turkey's summer afternoons, people will be re-



Photo courtesy of the 39th Air Base Wing Historian Office

Families of Turkish Air Force personnel and local civilian employees visited Incirlik during the Armed Forces Day open house held May 22, 1964. An estimated crowd of 2,000 Turks and Americans viewed static displays of aircraft from both nation's air forces as well as canine obedience and fire fighting demonstrations.

leased after lunch until 6 p.m. when it is cooler, said Sergeant Byars. At that time, people can return to the park for an awards presentation, music and folk dancing including Turkish and American entertainment.

"This is a time for families to get together and celebrate the rich culture of the base," he added. "We will have bouncy castles, ice cream, folk dancers, a band and an award's ceremony for the children's art and essay contest being conducted at the school. It should be quite an event. To make it even more special and involve the community even more, we are asking everyone to bring a dessert to share."

The senior leader formal dinner June 18, will consist of a traditional Turkish menu and Turkish and American entertainment.

To aid in fundraising and to provide people with a visible reminder of the base's history, the committee will sell limited edition lithographs, signed and numbered, for \$20 each. These are high-quality reprinted sketches on 13 by 16 inch linen paper, suitable for framing, said Staff Sgt. Regina Brown, 39th ABW historian and lithograph project director.

"These are collector's items because we will only print 1,000 copies," she added. "The 39th copy will hang in the headquarters building, the 10th copy will be given to the 10th TB and the 425th copy will be given to the folks at Izmir. We are also going to make them available to people worldwide. In fact, we have already received orders from retirees in the states who were once stationed at Incirlik and want a way to remember the base."

In addition to the lithographs, coins commemorating the 50th anniversary will also be available for \$10, said Sergeant Byars. There will be 1,000 coins made and when they are sold, the die will be retired.

"We estimated it would take more than \$10,000 to do everything we want to do to celebrate this one-in-a-lifetime mark for the base," said Sergeant Byars. "I mean, 50th anniversaries don't just come around every day, you know."

"Incirlik Air Base is such a special and unique installation, it deserves special treatment for its 50th birthday. We just want to give [the base] the best party ever but we need everyone's help to do that," he continued.

AMMO strikes again, takes softball championship

By Tech. Sgt. Robert Burgess
39th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

A strong message was sent to this year's intramural softball teams as AMMO dominated the Annual Men's Varsity Softball tournament Saturday at Field 1, downing OS/AMS in the championship game.

In the double-elimination tournament, a worn out OS/AMS played three games straight to make it to the championship game. Climbing out of the loser's bracket and playing three in a row is tough for any team, said Staff Sgt. Joe Jones, 728th Air Mobility Squadron tournament organizer and varsity coach.

Eight teams played two games to determine the seeding, with COMM earning the top seed during the Incirlik 50th Anniversary celebration fundraiser tournament April 8 through 10.

Jones said SFS had a strong showing in the tournament but they were left yelling for a cop, because the umpire made a judgment call at the end of the game against OS/AMS in the semi-final game with 30 seconds left.

"SFS had a 14-11 lead, with one out and time still left to play the umpire decided to let the last batter finish his at bat and he hit into a double play ending the inning," he said. "With time expired, the umpires decided to allow OS/AMS to bat again." From there OS/AMS collected 10 runs to SFS two runs, 21-16.

Head umpire for the base softball intramural league Jeffery Thomas said, "New umpires worked the games and they gained valuable training from the tournaments. While it was not the regular season playoffs the crew took a lot away from the games."

Another unfortunate break for SFS during the tournament was when Boomer Ferguson dinged the top of the fence and the ball bounced back into play in Friday nights win against CONS/ABW. He repeated the feat again in a contest Saturday as the ball hit a light pole and fell back into play.

Jones said AMMO has a deadly lineup at the plate. "Batters three through eight can hit home runs at will and they had five homeruns in a row in one game."

AMMO coach, Michael McClary, said in slow pitch, any team can be beaten on any given day. "The Cops, OS/AMS, Med Group and LRS always field very good teams. We squeaked out a win against the cops on Sunday; we were fortunate to win that one."

While AMMO was the top team during pre-season tournament play, coach McClary said,

"During league play, there is a six home run limit that will help even the playing field for teams that are base hitters."

Another pitfall that teams like AMMO and SFS face is their summer work schedule. Coach McClary said, "It is hard to field a team that is pumped to play after they worked a 12-14 hour shift."

During the tourney, the Varsity team's wins against other teams counted as losses in the double-elimination tournament. Jones said the co-ed teams performed admirable with a bunch of girls and a sprinkling of guys on both teams.

The tournament raised \$1,200 and the proceeds are going toward the Grand Slam I London, England, tournament May 19 to 23.

Fourty-eight teams from England and the Czech Republic will compete at the tournament.

Wire tests

Senior Airman James Stogner, 39th Communications squadron voice network technician, uses a set of alligator clamps to test a telephone jumper wire on a vertical block.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Bradley Lail



Ask MEHMET

By Mehmet Birbiri, *Host Nation Adviser*

Children's Day

Question: Mehmet, I hear Turkey has a holiday especially for children. When is it and how do people celebrate this holiday?

Response: Turkey emphasizes the love, hope and future of children with a national holiday for them. Turkey was the first country to proclaim a national holiday just for children in 1929.

Turkish people celebrate the holiday every April 23, and it is officially known as National Sovereignty and Children's Day.

There is a lot of history behind this day. When the Ottoman Empire was defeated in World War I, England, France, Italy, Greece and Russia's winning forces occupied The country's ruling sultan was only a figure-head. Occupying forces, mainly England, dictated orders to him in Istanbul, the capital of the empire.

The occupying British forces closed the Ottoman Parliament. Some parliament members fled, some were exiled and others were put in prison.

Mustafa Kemal, later named Ataturk, did not stand still. Knowing and believing in his nation, he left Istanbul and ignited the War of Independence in Anatolia. He set up resistance forces and organized congresses at different locations.

In order to succeed, he knew the nation had to be united, so he sent messages throughout the country asking for support.

Representatives traveled to Ankara to help make decisions on the nation's future. Ankara was in a central region of Anatolia and was not occupied by the foreign forces. Ankara was proclaimed as the capital of the country later on. The first Grand National Assembly opened April 23, 1920 under Ataturk's chairmanship.

The decisions of the Grand National Assembly saved the country and led to founding the Republic of Turkey. During the War of Independence, many children had been left homeless orphans. Ataturk's concern for these children led to the foundation of the



Photo by Senior Airman Jessica Switzer

David Mullins, Incirlik family member plays on his tricycle at the Child Development Center. Saturday is National Sovereignty and Children's Day in Turkey, one of the customs in recognition of this day is to symbolically appoint a child to every administrative position in the country.

Institute for the Salvation of Children. Then, because children were the future of Turkey, Ataturk dedicated the day, the young republic's most important day, to the children of the nation in celebration of the opening of the Grand National Assembly.

Tomorrow marks the 85th anniversary of that event.

Major ceremonies and celebrations take place in Ankara and Istanbul. Throughout the country, elementary schools are decorated and children wear special uniforms to commemorate the day.

One special activity is to put a child, symbolically, in charge of every administrative position from president to mayor. Children usually give orders like opening new playgrounds or schools. The ceremony in Adana begins at 9 a.m. at the stadium. Ceremonies will also be held at Incirlik village.

In 1979, the United Nation's Year of the Child, the Turkish government proposed that April 23 be declared a holiday for the children of the world. That same year, Turkey began inviting children from every country to participate in its Children's Day festivities.

The state run Turkish Radio Television Corporation sponsors an annual international Children's Day Festival. Hundreds of children from different countries march in the streets of Ankara and Istanbul in their national outfits, performing their native dances.

Every year children from more than 40 countries come together, celebrate that happy event and plant the seeds of peace and brotherhood.

In Turkish

cocuk - child
(cho - juck)

ulusal - national
(ou -lue - sahl)

bayram - festival
(by - rahm)

Nisan - April
(knee - sun)

umit - hope
(ue - mit)

Do you have a question about something Turkish? Ask Mehmet. To submit a question, call 6-6060 or e-mail mehmet.birbiri@incirlik.af.mil.

We Got the Beat: Incirlik children display talents, compete for the big prize

(Left to right) Breana Plummer, Jordan Davis, Paige Miller and Alexis Milner, Incirlik family members, dance in the U.S. Air Forces in Europe talent contest Friday at the Incirlik Club.

The winners in the 6- to 12- year old category were: Vocal division: top female vocalist: **Tiara Leak**; vocal group: **Brooke Cruz** and **Jacie Davidson**; Instrumental division: **Kathleen Thompson**; Performing arts division: dance: **Allyssia Hodge**, **Tiara Smith**, **Akea Hayes** and **Brianna Milner**; speciality: **Dasia Davis**; Best in show: **Allyssia Hodge**, **Tiara Smith**, **Akea Hayes** and **Brianna Milner**.

Winners in the 13- to 18- year old category were: Vocal division: top female vocalist: **Aleta Shaheen**; vocal group: **Kimberly Evans**, **Auriel McClinton** and **Brittany Orie**; Instrumental division: **Kristen Thompson**; Performing arts division: dance: **Amber Posy**, **Kara Knox**, **Charmaine Mims**, **Chelsea Mims** and **Micah Hayes**; Best in show: **Kristen Thompson**.

Tapes of the best in show winners will be sent to compete in the USAFE talent contest. (Courtesy Incirlik youth center)



Photos by Airman 1st Class Bradley Lail



(Above) Myles Frost, Incirlik family member, dances to Usher's hit song "Yeah".

(Right) Sean Gray, Incirlik family member, does the robot. (Below front to back) Lt. Col. Samuel Douglas, 39th Mission Support Group deputy commander; Maj. Bryan Kemper, 39th Medical Squadron optometry element chief; Capt. Brandon Christensen, 39th MDS Family Advocacy adviser; Master Sgt. Tina Binetez-Clark, 39th Mission Support Squadron first sergeant, and Senior Airman Thyatira Singleton, 39th Operations Squadron airfield management, judge the youth talent contest.



THE INCIRLIK GUIDE

Spring Fling

The Spring Fling is 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday at Arkadas park. For more information call 6-8411.

Club closure

The club dining room is closed Saturday. For more information, call the club at 6-6101.

Women's Soccer

The base women's soccer team meets 2 p.m. Sundays at the high school soccer field. Anyone who wants to learn or play soccer can attend practices. For more information, call Stephanie Martin at 6-6810 or e-mail at stephanie.martin@incirlik.af.mil.

Key Spouses evening

The Key Spouses, Family Support Center and the Incirlik Combined Spouses Club are hosting an evening of bunko and food for all Incirlik spouses from 4:30 to 7 p.m. May 6 at the Incirlik club complex. For more information, call Richele Kemper at 6-8289

PTSC meeting

Nominations for Incirlik high school Parent Teacher Student Club board members are being accepted through May 9. Elections are 5 p.m. May 10. To make a nomination or for more information, call Senior Master Sgt. John Herkel at 6-6439.

Mother's Day gifts

The 39th Services Squadron is offering a number of Mother's Day gift packages. Orders can be placed through the community center. For more information, call Nerissa Atkisson at 6-6966 or 6-1032.

Beginner Yoga Classes

Yoga classes for beginners are 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays in racquet ball court four at the fitness center. Classes are \$20 for eight, one-hour classes taught by a certified Yoga Fit instructor. For more information, call the fitness center at 6-6086.

WARRIOR OF THE WEEK



Senior Airman Randy Haithcock

425th Air Base Squadron
Commander's Support Staff

Time in service: Three years

Hometown: Lynchburg, Va.

Time on station: Six months

Hobbies: Sports, school and hanging out with friends

Why did you join the Air Force? To better myself and the educational benefits are pretty good too.

What do you like the most about Izmir?

We are very close knit community. Everyone knows everyone and we look out for one another.

How do you contribute to the mission?

I perform personnel actions for all Air Force members assigned to the 425th Air Base Squadron, NATO Joint Command Southeast and six tenant organizations.

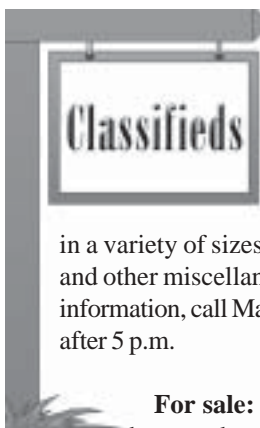
What Air Force core value best describes you?

Integrity First – It's always best to just tell the truth

Supervisor's quote:

"Supervisors are lucky when they have young airmen they can train, respect and trust on 'auto pilot,'" said Tech. Sgt. L'Tanya Williams, NCOIC, 425th Air Base Squadron Commander Support Staff.

"Everyday he demonstrates he is the one to count on for any task with his wealth of knowledge and experience."



Yard sale: Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon at 4046C Adana in Falcon housing. Items for sale include children's clothing and shoes

in a variety of sizes, toys, movies, books and other miscellaneous items. For more information, call Marlene Harris at 6-2272 after 5 p.m.

For sale: 1985 Honda Civic, 2 doors, red, sunroof, standard transmission. PCSing, must sell. Asking \$400 O.B.O. For more information, call Taylor Vandenoogaard at 6-5559.

For sale: 1990 Toyota Corolla, Japanese specs, four-door automatic. \$1,400 O.B.O. For more information, call Joe Conley at 6-2253.

Wanted: Someone licensed in or experienced with patent law is needed to help an individual. For more information, call David Ulmer at 6-2825 or 6-3514.

Cookies available: Girl Scout Cookies are still available. To order or for more information, call 6-6101.

tion, call April Rogers at 0535-214-8513.

Position available: Department of Defense Dependent Schools is currently accepting applications for a secretary. Applications may be picked up at the Incirlik elementary school. For more information, call 6-3109.

Position available: Embry Riddle Aeronautical University is seeking individuals with a master's degree or higher who would like to earn additional income teaching. Areas of interest include management, human resources, international affairs and public safety. Schedules are flexible. For more information, call Richard Todd at 6-1098.

Services available: The Incirlik club complex can deliver full and half-sheet cakes for birthdays and other important occasions. For more information, call 6-6101.

Nanny available: People looking for a nanny can call Ebony Salvati 6-5311 after 4:30 p.m.

Dog trainer needed: A dog trainer is needed to train a 2-year-old female Shih-Tzu. Owner will pay to work with the trainer. For more information, call 6-2429 in the evenings.



Project CHEER focuses on creating a positive atmosphere by offering unaccompanied Airmen opportunities to participate in trips, tournaments, classes, giveaways and community service events.

COMBAT, SPECIAL INTEREST PROGRAM

Crossroads Café

Today: The Company Grade Officer's Club sponsors food and fellowship at the Crossroads Café from 7 to 11 p.m. It is open to everyone ages 18 and older.

Saturday: The 11:15 a.m. Gospel Service sponsors food and fellowship at the Crossroads Café from 6 to 10 p.m. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Dianne Garvey at 6-6441.

Combat Touch happenings

Catholic Sunday School is cancelled Sunday. For more information, call Patty Heidlage at 6-3890.

Catholic Mass will be celebrated at 5:30 p.m. Saturday instead of Sunday. There is no mass Sunday. For more information, call Patty Heidlage at 6-3890.

A **gospel music workshop** is Tuesday through April 30 at the base chapel. A gospel music concert is 6 p.m. April 30 at the base chapel. For more information or to sign up, call Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Richard Spearman at 6-6441.

The Protestant Women of the Chapel sponsor **Crafts, Chats and Chocolate** from 6 p.m. to midnight May 6 at the chapel; annex. For more information, call LeeAnn Moore at 6-5946.

The Protestant Women of the chapel sponsor two **women's bible studies** in May. The first is 9 to 11 a.m. and the other is 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays beginning May 3 in the Chapel Conference Room. For more information, call Auline Platt at 6-5959.

A **Christian Women's Luncheon**, sponsored by the Protestant Women of the Chapel, is noon to 1 p.m. May 12 at the Crossroads Café. For more information, call Melanie McDade at 6-9381.

Project Wizard happenings

The Incirlik library is holding a **book-mark design contest** for children in Kindergarten through 12th grade. The contest runs through April 30.

Children's story hour is 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Fridays for preschool children from three- to five-years-old at the library. For more information, call the library at 6-6759.



Photo by Airman Dawn Duman

Going once, twice, SOLD!

Maj. Brandon Halstead, 39th Air Base Wing deputy staff judge advocate, calls bids during the shotgun auction. The 46 weapons, sold by the 39th Security Forces Squadron Saturday, were abandoned by previous owners. Proceeds from the auction will be returned to the Incirlik community through squadron booster clubs.



AT THE OASIS

Today

7 p.m. – Man of the House (PG-13) (1st Run) – Starring Tommy Lee Jones and Cedric the Entertainer. Hard-edged Texas Ranger Ronald Sharp is assigned to protect the only witnesses to the murder of a key figure in the prosecution of a drug kingpin — a group of University of Texas cheerleaders. (97 minutes)

9:15 p.m. — Alone in the Dark (R) – Starring Christian Slater and Tara Reid. A supernatural detective named Carnby travels to Shadow Island to solve the mystery of a friend's death. While there, he discovers the secrets of an ancient tribe that worshiped demonic forces which gave them incredible powers. (121 minutes)

Saturday

5 p.m. – Pooh's Heffalump Movie (G) – Animated. The residents of the Hundred Acre Wood try to catch the terrifying Heffalumps, who have come into the forest. (68 minutes)

7:30 p.m. – Man of the House (PG-13) (1st Run) – Starring Tommy Lee Jones and Cedric the Entertainer. (97 minutes)

Sunday

7 p.m. – Alone in the Dark (R) – Starring Christian Slater and Tara Reid. (121 minutes)

Thursday

7 p.m. – The Wedding Date (PG-13) – Starring Debra Messing and Dermot Mulroney. Kat Ellis's younger half-sister is getting married before her, and, to add insult to injury, the groom's best man is Kat's ex-fiancée, Jeffrey. Unable to bear the thought of attending alone, she hires an escort to play her boyfriend. (90 minutes)

AT THE M1

The Pacifier (PG-13) — 1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. (91 minutes)

Be Cool (PG-13) — 11:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m., 9:30 p.m. (114 minutes)

Miss Congeniality 2 (PG-13) — 11 a.m., 4 p.m. (115 minutes)

Movie listings are subject to changes. On-base listings are courtesy of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service Web site at <http://www.aafes.com/ems/euro/incirlik.htm>; M-1 listings are courtesy of the Tempe Cinemaxx Web site at www.tepecinemaxx.com.tr. For more Oasis information and updates, call the movie recording at 6-6986 or the theater office at 6-9140.